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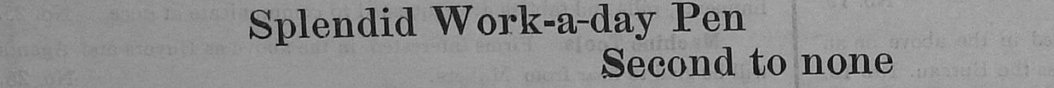

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FORTNIGHTLY BUSINESS REVIEW

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OUR MILK SUPPLY AND HOW TO REGULATE IT.

The milk supply of big Indian towns has been a very much vexed economic question most ripe for early and favourable solution. To ensure a cheap pure and fresh milk supply, the sources of it should have to be protected by legislation if need be or in other words, indiscriminate cow slaughter shall have to be stopped, free foreign export of our best Indian milch cattle should be discontinued, the health of our dairy cattle carefully looked to, their food adequately supplied, scientifically well regulated and balanced, their stalls always kept under sanitary conditions and milk when extracted from the udder should be collected in sanitary clean milk pails and should be sent to the nearest market within 6 hours of milking in a hot country like ours, and should be kept always under 50°F, till it reaches the consumer. Milk is nature's most valuable food for infants and men. Its food value must be based not only on the several substances which it contains but on its digestibility and its peculiar usefulness in feeding the young.

The importance of this vast question has been felt by our own men and it has been very well ventilated by the leaderette of the *Englishman* of the 8-10-20 and Mr. J. A. Issac's note on the "Milk question" that saw light in the issue of the said paper of the 13—10—20. The rich Marwari community of Calcutta have registered a limited company after the subsidence of the Ratona Slaughter house affair under the style of the "Gorakshana Mandali" under the management of Bhagat Brodsat, 3, Bentinck Street, Calcutta, The Bengal Dairies Ltd., at 172, Bowbazar Street, Calcutta, The Model Dairies Ld., at 100 Old Post Office Street, Calcutta, but none have started business as yet for various initiatory difficulties. Mr. Issac's wail for a philanthropist to take up the vexed milk question of Bengal is superfluous and vain, for let the Indian and christian as well as the Muhammadan and Marwari communities of Calcutta join hands to start a big milk plant and distribute the same cheap,fresh,pure and hygenic milk to the consumers direct. New York, Montreal, London, Detroit, Edinburgh, York, and other big western towns have such organizations but we have not the least shadow of such institutions in our vast country.

If India is to rise and her sons to live as a nation, her cows must have to be protected from the indiscriminate application of the butcher's knife as I have said before. If she is to rank and retake her lost position as one of the foremost agricultural countries of the civilized world, she will have to improve her agriculture and preserve her cow. Dairy farming to be a paying concern ought to be linked with pure milk supply, livestock raising, poultry farming, pisciculture and the grazier's art. To ensure an easy, cheap, fresh and pure milk supply, the original sources of it should be enhanced and the only way to effect the same is to improve the breeds of various Indian breeds of dairy cattle and regulate, if not stop cow slaughter. We in India raise cattle for milk and the plough but beeve cattle we have not, we raise not, and the economic drain on that score is the greatest. To arrest this continual economic drain upon the country we shall have to start kidderies, piggeries, poultry-farms and as many dairy farms in the above lines, as the country can afford; and if India's vanishing milk pail is to be repleted, as I have said before her dairy cattle must have to be improved and her beef-consumers should raise triple purpose cattle, To improve the Hanse Hissurgir, Ongole, Guzrat, Nellore, Bengal, Nogora, Montgomery and Muthra breeds of Indian dairy cattle, cross with the best Holstein Red Danish, Shorthord, Kerry, Dexetar or the Jersey or Normandy bulls is necessary, for, infusion of fresh blood improves the breed. Our Government started a breeding section in the Rungpur farm, but it has proved a shear failure after the transfer of Mr. J. N. Chuceresty and the whole herd has been disposed off, causing great loss to the poor Indian taxpayer. What is the cause ? I can get from the West as many heifer, stock, poultry dairy and poultry outfit and machinery for would be starters of the industry on previous settling of terms in prepaid covers as they may wish to have. A good dairy with the up-to-date plants, and compleate outfit can be started for 50° qrts. of milk per day for Rs. 60,000 or thereabouts at the least, in a country like India under its present conditions. Time has come for our country's leaders to direct their attenation to this most important economic question and its early and favourable solution. Let our Zemindars, landlorders and agricultural masses, instead of taking fancies for dogs, birds and horses take a fancy for the Indian cow as was the case in the Buddhist and Hindu eras and even so late as the days of the Moslem regime and the Udeyars of Mysore, to whose energies we owe the existence in our land of the Nadudanas and the Dadudanas, the triumph of the Mysore breeds of South Indian draught cattle.

As progress continues in the improvement of milk supplies the relative values of the several factors which contribute to produce the best results become more clear. The score card has proved a most useful instrument for educational purposes, merely by the exercise of the simplest sanitary precautions pure, fresh and clear milk could be produced in unclean stalls even. Our India dairymen and milk dealers sadly lack education in this lime. What have the All-India Cow Conference Asssociation of Calcutta, the Bombay and Howrah Humanitarian Leagues, the Gorakshan Mandli of Calcutta, the Pravirakshak Sana tan Sabha of Akola (C.P.), the Bombay Gorakshak Mandli and the Pure Hyginic Milk Supply Co., Ltd, of Madras done in this respect? Pure, fresh, sanitary millk can only be raised by the combined efforts of the dealers and consumers alike. In order to train our own dairymen in the art of production of pure, clean, sanitary milk, organisation of popular lectures in the big important towns of India under the auspices of the Bombay Humanitarian League or the All-India Cow Conference Association or the Mahajana Sabha Madras, is exeedingly necessary. Sanitary clean milk can be produced only under the following conditions :—

1. Milking with dry hands into covered milking pails.

2. Proper washing and sterilizing of milking pails and milk cans.

3. Cooling milk by placing cans in tanks of cold water or ice water.

4. Regular laboratory testing of milk for hacteria and payments based on laboratory tests.

5. Introduction of tuberculin test in Indian dairy herds. The proper trained man is the chief factor in producing clear milk and not the dairy, which is of secondary importance. The clean dairy man may be transported from dairy to dairy and can make clean milk wherever he goes. The thing that is most certain to induce a dairyman to produce clean milk every day is to base his payments on results. The product is the thing and not the score. In securing the product it is the man and not the dairy. The proper man will make everything for himself to make clean milk. On perusal of what I have written, above a question naturally arises in our minds *viz.*, why is it necessary to stop cow slaughter and export of dairy cattle, seeing that the best breeds of cattle and largest supplies of milk obtain in countries which allow freedom of slaughter and of export. The answer to the above is not far to seek. Those countries that slaughter cattle for food raise double purpose cattle ; a section of our own countrymen consume cattle, but these encroach upon the farmer's plough and store cattle and on the milk pail. We ought to raise triple purpose animals for India to serve as beefcattle. Any owner of dairy cattle will hardly send his best Jersey, Shorthorn or Ayrshire dairy cow to the butcher and knacker's yard in spite of handsome pecuniary payments, but I know full well that abortive cows, lean steers, oxen or store animals or cows past the age of calf-bearing or beeve-cattle are usually sent to the slaughter house or the butcher's yards as above. We have no such thing in India and therefore the encroachment on the score of food on our cattle is the greatest and the result of this is vast economic drain which the country cannot in any way bear under its present conditions.

Again European countries export dairy cows and steers or heifers to other countries for breeding purposes, those countries have breeding farms, and the Governments of those countries have state grants, we have not these and cousequently the export of our best bulls and milch cattle to other countries since 1807 which is being systematically carried on with impunity, has told bitterly upon our agriculture and our milk pail. If this condition has to be amliorated our cows must have to be protected and export stopped. Therefore the cry in the whole length and breadth of the country from the meanest farmer to the rich landholder is to stop cow-slaughter, so that the economic equilibrium be maintained ere long. Without the joint co-operation of all sections of His Majesty's Indian subjects and Government help this vast economic drain cannot be mended. I therefore call upon my countrymen that instead of dabbling in hollow politics, which is quite a sham in the hands of a subject nation like ourselves let our leaders take up and direct their attention to this all-India important economic subject so that we can raise more for our use and export and thus dispel the recurring sceptre of famine from off our Indian shores. Let us improve our cows and buffs, raise more foodstuffs, feed ourselves properly and half the battle of existence is won.

(*To be continued.*)

NON-CO-OPERATION BY INDIA.

(By The Rt. Hon. Lord Ampthill, G. C. S. I., G. C. I. E., Formerly Viceroy and Governor-General of India.)

We are so deeply immersed in our own affairs at home that there is a danger of our failing to observe the full significance of the present movements in the politics and policies of our great Indian Empire. This is the more serious a mistake, because our ignorance of the subject may be used to lead us into making false steps and especially into our opinions and statements being quoted as arguments in India for or against certain movements.

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WHAT THE MOVEMENT MEANS.

The Non-Co-operation movement has several rules which all patriotic Indians are asked to follow. These are :—The renunciation of titles and honorary offices ; a boycott of the Law Courts and withdrawal of children from schools and colleges which are under Government or receive grants ; refusal to stand as candidates or to vote at the elections for the Legislative Councils ; a boycott of foreign-made goods ; and a further plank recently added to the platform by Mr. Gandih, a refraining from parentage and a ceasing to bring into the world children who are to be "ground down into slavery."

THE TRADE BOYCOTT.

But the most serious item, so far as immediate effects here are considered, is undoubtedly the boycott of foreign goods. This of course includes all goods made here, or outside India, and if this boycott succeeds there is hardly a family or a workshop in this country that will not receive a heavy blow—some indeed an immediately fatal wound. The latest published figures give the exports of the United Kingdom to India for a year (1918-19) as valued at £51,000,000. If Non-Co-operation succeeds we shall lose at a stroke the work and the wages to that value, and this at a time when already the cry of unemployment here is being heard with daily increasing strength. There are some factories, there are whole colonies of workers engaged to-day on almost exclusive manufacture of goods for export to India. These factories and workers would be thrown idle at once. In cotton manufactures alone we exported to India in the one year 16 million pounds worth of "grey goods" and 8 million pounds worth of "coloured goods." Of cotton yarns we sent 38 million lbs. We sent 77,000 tons of steel; we sent hardware to the value of over £2,000,000; paper, £1,814,000; apparel, £1,223,000; silk goods, £2,473,000; iron and steel, £8,300,000.

BLOW TO THE WORKERS.

It may be true that figures are dull, uninteresting, unconvincing, and dry as dust, but they will not be so uninforming to the people who are engaged in the particular trades and industries mentioned ; and those who are not concerned with the particular goods quoted may look up for themselves the figures of their own special business. The matter goes even further than this ; the loss of employment which would follow the success of Non-Co-operation touches millions more workers than ever you will find mentioned in the statistical tables of India's imports and exports. We sent India in one year goods to the value of £51,000,000.

Those goods have to be manufactured, and a stoppage of their export to India would lose exactly the proportion of that amount of work and wages in the goods sent to India. But this figure does not touch, for instance, the fact that a successful boycott of our goods would also mean £51,000,000 worth of goods the less to be carried over our railways from the factories to the seaports—and that amount less of work for our railwaymen to do ; the same amount less for our shipping to carry to India—and the fewer ships to be built, the fewer seamen to be employed ; that amount less goods to pass through the docks—and a proportionate amount of work less for our dockers. So it runs through all sorts of employments which do not figure in the "Indian Imports and Exports" tables, but spell work and wages to many thousands throughout the kingdom, if Mr. Gandhi persuades his Indian followers into strict Non-Co-operation and a boycott of our goods.

WHAT WILL THE NORTH SAY ?

Consider only the one trade and manufacture of cotton goods. How many workers are going to be thrown idle if there is no export trade to India ? Of cotton goods alone we sent India in one year £34,458,000, of cotton yarn £5,911,000. How many workers are employed in this one manufacture ? And if they are thrown out of employment how many others will it effect ? There are the tradesmen who supply those workers with food and clothing, the butchers, bakers, drapers, grocers, bootmakers, who will have so many employed workers the less to supply, the railwaymen who will have this much less to transport, the carters and motormen who will have no goods for India to carry to the railways, the dockers who will have no Indian goods to handle—and again the butchers, bakers, and so on who will be without the custom of these workers who are left unemployed through a stoppage of our Indian trade. It is safe to say that there is not a trade, a profession, an occupation which would not feel acutely the loss of employment which would follow a loss of our import and export trade of material and goods imported or exported here for the manufactures of our Indian trade. A loss of employment and a loss of wages to British workers running into untold millions a year.

(People)

ARE YOU USING THE RIGHT TOOLS IN THE RIGHT WAY ?

When Mr. Rider was nearly thirty he had saved £ 150. Then he started a little grocery store in Leeds with two assistants. Mr. Rider was very shrewd, very human and very hard-working. Mr. Rider had that spirit in him which would have made him successful in most things he undertook. So he succeeded in the grocery business.

At the end of a year he had bought the shop next door to enlarge his own premises. He then advertised for two new assistants. From the mass of replies he picked out the two young men whom he thought would best suit him, and told them to come in next Monday morning. They came, of course, glad that they had found work.

Early on this Monday morning Mr. Rider had had delivered to him several boxes of fresh eggs. He sent his two assistants into the basement to unpack them. One of Mr. Rider's new assistants, call him No. 1 was discharged thatday. That happened this way.

When the two new assistants went into the basement they took off their coats, and looked at the egg boxes. No. 2 thought to himself, "Well, eggs have got to be handled with caution and care. There are big nails in those boxes. I'll go upstairs and ask the boss where he keeps his tools." So No. 2 went upstairs. Meanwhile No. 1 had got to work. He had a big jack-knife in his pocket. He opened the biggest blade and made a start on the nearest box. In about ten minutes he had lost his temper, and has nearly lost a finger of his left hand. He had smashed his knife over two dozen good eggs. Mr. Rider happened to pass along just then, saw the trouble, and in his shrewd human way told No. 1 that he didn't think he was going to make a good grocer, and so he had better get out without delay.

This little story teaches us that you can not pull out a champagne cork with a hair-pin. If you try to do that, you are working with the wrong tools. Of course, if you are on a desert island, and have a bottle of champagne and a tin of sardnies, and are starving, and have lots of spare time ahead of you, and nobody nearly to criticise your actions, it's a good thing to utilise your imagination in an effort to accomplish the almost impossible. But in business it's quite another thing. No fishmonger who had any real sense, would try to open an oyster with a fork. A bricklayer would not try to lay his mortar with a big shovel. A gardener would not try to fell a tree with a pickaxe. All such attempts spell failure with a big F. If you are going to be a succees in life, you must use the right tools in the right way.

Not so long ago a man was having a bungalow built at the sea side, and he got talking to the builder about labour, and asked him what method he adopted for choosing good workmen. The builder said, "If a man applies to me for work, I engage him for half a day's trial. I can tell by the way he takes his tools out of his bag, the way he puts them together, and the way in which he handles them, whether he is an experienced workman or a poor one. If he goes about these things the right way I keep him on. Because it's my fault then if he does not do his work properly. Thoroughness is one of the best tools in carving out success.

Peter the Great wanted to build a navy for Russia. He knew nothing about ships or ship-building. So he became a shipbuilder himself. Lovis XVI of France wanted to understand the Blacksmith's art. If you go to the Louvre in Paris to-day—it is on a par with our British museum—you will see the anvil on which he used to work.

I BELIEVE, I HEAR and I THINK are bad tools in business. I KNOW is the best tool.

Sir Joshua Reynolds was one of the most distinguished painters of his day. In answer to the question how he attained the excellence he did, he replied, "By observing one simple rule—always to make each painting the best."

There was a story told of a member of Parliament many years ago, that he once sneered across the House to a statesman : "I remember when you blacked my father's boots." "Well," was the retort, "did I not black them well ?"

And let me now give you an extract from Samuel Smiles : "The value of knowledge to any man certainly consists, not in quantity, but mainly in the good use to which he can apply it. Hence, a little knowledge of an exact and perfect character is always found more valuable for practical purposes than any extent of superficial learning. The pharase in common use as to 'the spread of knowledge' at this day is no doubt correct, but it is spread so widely, and in such thin layers, that it only serves to reveal the mass of ignorance lying beneath. Never, perhaps, were books more extensively read, or less studied; and the number is rapidly increasing of those who know a little of everything and nothing well. Such readers have not inaptly been likened to a certain sort of pocket-knife which some peple carry about with them, which in addition to a common knife, contains a file, a chisel, a saw, a gimlet, a screw-driver, and a pair of scissors, but all so diminutive that the moment they are needed for use, they are found useless.

But the best tool you have to work with is your BRAIN. Your brain rules every other single item of your anatomy. Your brain will help you to thoroughness of work. At least it will if you cultivate it. Shut your eyes and think back twenty or thirty thousand years. Think what the world was like then. Men like you were puny, little, no account creatures, even if we admit that man then existed. He grubbed in the earth with his fingers for food. His manners were filthy. He was little better than a beast. Every animal hunted him. He shivered in winter, because he was born without fur. He fought at a disadvantge when the eagle or the lion or the buffalo, or the elephant met him, because he had no talons, no big cruel teeth, no tusks. Nothing at all with which to protect himself.

But God gave him brains, and left him the cultivation of them. He gave him tools and armour and defensive weapons—in brains. Man was slow to use them. The ant, for its size, is about a million times bigger in intelligence and sense than any man that ever lived. But man gradually cultivated his brains and lifted himself upwards. He exterminated some of the fierce animals. He is still exterminating them. He does not now compete with them. He is their master.

Brain power alone did that for him. Brain power enabled him to make traps and swords and guns and poisons. Brain power enabled him to make tools and told him how to use them. What are you doing with your brain power ? How big is it ? How good is it? Are you opening champagne bottles with hair pins, egg crates, with penknives ?

Go out some fine morning and have a close hair cut and a Shampoo, and then when the brain is very cool and clear, try to think how valuable a box of tools you carry in your skull. And, in future, try to hand it like a skilled workman.

ECONOMICS OF CIVILIZATION.

Col. Wedgewood is reported to have said :—

Western civilisation has placed a "high" standard of living before the people. It is not only the rich who want to live up to it, but the poor also endeavour to do the same and as a result are ruined.

Western civilization has ruined our villages where our forefathers had not the variety of luxuries that we have but they had plenty of truly life-giving and sustaining substances that we lack, namely, good milk, fish and plenty of *dal* and *bhat*. They had therefore health in quest of which we townspeople have to move periodically to the hills and dales to the financial ruin of many of us.

Western civilization has shattered our joint families. But what has it substituted in its place? The death of a male member in the old joint family did not spell such a disaster for the rest of the members as it does now in single families when the earning member of the family dies.

Western civilization has done these and many more that will occur to anybody. To-day our middle classes of limited means find themselves between two fires. They have on the one hand, to maintain their mode of living borrowed largely from the West, and on the other, to ruin themselves financially in doing so for the prevailing high prices. Their wants have gone on increasing with the progress of western civilization but their income has not gone up *pari passu*.

Perhaps more disastrous in its consequences than in the cases of men has been the on-rush of western civilization in the cases of our women. Our ladies, mostly unaffected by western education, have been none the less violently outbalanced by western civilization. This has been particularly noticeable in dress. In the household of an Indian gentleman of average means, etc., will by their bewildering variety make one forget that it is an Indian and not an English home. And to what perennial worries the bread-winner of the family is put to meet the demands of the women folk and the children in this connection it is needless to dwell upon. In these days of high prices when ordinary clothing of the purest Indian type, and the ordinary Indian diet have become difficult to find for the vast majority of our people it may be readily imagined what it means to them to find a lot of money for the non-Indian costumes and habits which western civilization had thrust upon us and which leechlike, have stuck to us.

IS INDIA PROSPERING?

There are Englishmen, official and non-official, who labour under the impression that India has prospered materially under British rule and is steadily prospering. They argue that if this was not the case how could she consume such a large quantity of silver and gold annually? Lala Lajpat Rai exposed the fallacy of this so-called argument in his speech as president of the Nagpur Cow Conference. Lalaji pointed out that the large consumption by India of gold and silver was no sign of her prosperity. For a rupee to-day cannot buy the same quantity of food as one anna did in pre-British days. It is, not abundance but the value of metal that should count. Mr. Lajpat might have further said that even under British administration the people were in a far better condition fifty years ago than now. A severe blow was dealt to the economic position of India when the mints were closed against the coinage of silver in 1893. The Coinage Act of that year almost halved the national wealth of India. It provided that while the value of a coined silver was full sixteen annas, that of an uncoined one was only nine or ten annas. The result was disastrous, for the only valuable property which the mass of the Indian people possessed was uncoined silver in the shape of ornaments, plates, vessels, etc. It does not thus matter if a large amount of bullion silver is annually imported here from other countries as its intrinsic value is only half of the coined metal. As regards gold, ten per cent of the Indian population never see its face. It is only the well-to-do classes who are able to buy it and their number is infinitesimally small compared with the bulk of the population. India is the land of annual famine, plague, malaria and cholera and this is conclusive evidence of the fact that far from prospering India is dying fast.

(*Amrita Bazar Patrika.*)

ECONOMIC CONFERENCE.

Prof. Hurst's Suggestions.

At the Indian Economic Conference held at Allahabad early this month, Professor Burnett Hurst of Muir College in course of an address made some important suggestions for legislation in view of the proposed amendment of the Indian Factories Act. He favoured the introduction of sixty-hour week, advocated the scheme for payment of maternity benefits to women in certain circumstances, pressed for deletion of Section 27 permitting night employment of women in seasonal factories, recommended passing of Trades Union Act and pointed out the dangers of introducing the Workmens' Compensation Act except for mines and railways and then only in case of loss of life or permanent disablement. Concluding the address Professor Hurst said, that periodic labour conferences between employers,labour leaders, social leaders, economists and officials could conveniently precede the establishment of a Central Labour Advisory Board and drafting of the Indian Labour Code. No amount of international legislation could be substituted for framing by India of her own labour laws and legislation based on deliberations of persons knowing the country would be infinitely superior to legislation by outsiders.

SCIENCE AND RESEARCH.

Sir J. C. Bose delivered a lecture in Bombay on the 3rd January 1921 in the course of which he said :—

The students wasted a great deal of their time and intellect and energy, which were meant for one great end—that great end was to serve their country, so that she could take her place once more. He did not want their applause, but he wanted them to feel deeply. They could serve their country in only one way; the students could serve their country by sharpening their intellects, by going through years of concentration of mind. The students had been living a parasitic life, and they had followed what had been told in the books, for want of finding it out for themselves. There was no other way of growing. Unless they, by their purity of life, by the concentration of life, and by talking little, tried to grow, they would never be able to do so. They should try to reach the highest perfection in whatever they undertook. What were they going to strive at? Were they going to accumulate all their life? That had been the greatest disaster in the world,—always hoarding. The greatest thing to do was to win; they should by their own efforts conquer the world and after they had conquered then renounce. Then they should give it away. Let the burden of life lie on those who were strong, and not those who were incapable of bearing it.

Life and Growth.

Coming to the subject of the lecture he said he had for twenty years been engaged in the study of the activities of plant life as compared with the corresponding functioning of animal life. But since plants for the most part seem motionless and passive, and are indeed limited in their range of movement, special apparatus of extreme delicacy had to be invented, which should magnify the tremor of excitation and measure the perception period of plant to a thousandth part of second. Ultramicroscopic movements had to be measured and recorded, the length measured being often shorter than a fraction of a single wave-length of light. The secret of plant life became thus revealed by the autographs of the plant itself. These investigations have established the fundamental unity of life-reactions in the plant and in the animal as seen in a similar periodic insensibility in both corresponding to what we call sleep; as seen in the death spasm which takes place in the plant as in the animal. This unity is further exhibited in that spontaneous pulsation which in the animal is the heart-beat; it appears in the similar effects of stimulants, of anæsthetics and of poisons in vegetable and animal tissues.

The Magnetic Creshcograph.

For the instant detection and measurement of growth and its changes, he bad perfected his Crescograph whose magnifying power has been within a short time raised from a million to fifty million times. Under a similar magnification of speed a snail would race round the earth two hundred times during the course of 24 hours. It might be thought that an apparatus of such inconceivably high magnification would be upset by the slightest tremor in a busy city. By means of special shock absorbing devices the lecturer has been able to protect his instrument from the slightest external disturbance as was seen from the perfect steadiness of the indicating spot of light. As an example of the extreme sensitiveness of his apparatus he attached to his apparatus of metal a piece of brass one inch in length which when raised through one degree would expand about 1,150,000 of an inch, which is equal to a single wave-length of light. It a candle is held at a distance of some three feet there would be produced an extremely minute rise of temperature, less than a thousandth part of a degree; that is to say, the expansion of the rod of metal would be less than one thousandth part of the wave-length of light—an amount which would be regarded as beyond the power of detection. Sir J. C. Bose however subjected his apparatus to a severer test. When the finger was pointed towards the metallic rod, the indicating spot at once responded by rapid movement, and on the removal of the finger the spot came back to exact zero.

A piece of plant is attached to the apparatus, and the active growth of the plant is exhibited by the rapid movement of the spot of light. The plant is next subjected to the action of dilute vapour of chloroform, which caused a very great stimulation of the rate of growth. Under continued action the anæsthetic growth became at first arrested, and a violent contractile spasm indicated the onset of death.

In conclusion the lecturer said that the results of his experiments showed that the plant is not a mere mass of vegetating tissue, but that its every part is full of sensibility. We are able to record the throbbings of its pulsating life, and find these wax and wane according to the life conditions of the plant, and cease with the death of the organism. We find the different parts of the plant connected together by conducting threats, so that the tremor of excitation initiated at one place courses through the whole, this "nervous" impulse, as in man, being modified or arrested under the several actions of drugs and poisons. In these and in many other ways the life-reactions of plant and man are alike; thus through the experience of the plant it is possible to alleviate the sufferings of man.

Advice to Students.

In a few concluding words of advice to the students Sir Jagdish said they were living a parasitic life, for they wanted everything easy. They wanted to be provided with everything either by the Government or by somebody else. That killed all their initiative. The greater the difficulties the greater was the honour for them. For that they had to be patient, as he had to be patient with his work, which was regarded by every one in the beginning as imaginary. There was no power on earth that could stop truth, that could hide truth; there was truth and righteousness in the world, and they could wait patiently and bring an era of justice and an era of righteousness—and that could only be done if they worked with their heart and soul and their mind. It was only after twenty years of work that his work was acknowledged. It was by their patient work, by their efforts, and by their winning fame, for their intellect, for their efforts and for their character could they win the world. What a fine power they had! What an immense amount of youthful power they had! They should try to do something for their country and in serving their country they would serve the whole world. That

work of advance must be in different directions—medicine, in one direction, agriculture in another direction, and their idea of life in another direction. In advancing India they would advance the whole world. If they could make their life one of righteousness and nobility they would be serving not only their country, but the whole world.

FOREST INDUSTRIES OF INDIA.

The Director of Information writes to say:—

A highly interesting State paper regarding the forest conditions in British India was submitted to the British Empire Forestry Conference which was held in London this year. It is a short report of 25 foolscap pages, prepared under the orders of the Government of India.

British India possesses in all 250,541 square miles of forests, more than half of which, *i. e.*, 1,46,165 square miles, are in Burma, the next in order being Assam 12,804, Central Provinces and Madras 19,000, and Bombay 12,587 square miles respectively. The average gross revenue from these forests was £778,000 during 1884—89, £1,713,000 during 1904-09 and £2,476,000 during 1914-19. The expenditure during these three periods was £495,000; £940,000 and £1,40,8000 respectively

Over and above the net revenue of £1,321,000 realized in 1917-18, the annual utilization of forest products for State purposes was as follows:—

Railway sleepers, 3 millions—8 million cubic feet, £400,000.

Timber (all species), 79 million cubic feet, £2,600,000.

Firewood, 173 million cubic feet, £350,000.

Bamboos and Canes, 150 million in number £100,000.

Lac, 20,000 tons, £1,200,000.

Myrobolans, 52,000 tons, £104,000.

Cutch, 40,000 cwts. £40,000.

Sandalwood, 550 tons, £44,000.

Grass and Fodder, not known, £500,000,

Rosin, 2,400 tons, £26,400.

Turpentine, 1,60,000 gallons, £21,000.

For training as forest rangers for Government service, as well as for Indian States, there is the Forest College at Dehra-Dun in the United Provinces, where research work is also carried on. Besides this, there are forest schools at Phinmama in Burma and Coimbatore in Madras Presidency, while an excellent training school was opened this year at Dharwar in our own Presidency.

BURMESE INDUSTRY.

The industrial position of the country is more unsatisfactory still from the Burmese point of view. The Lieutenant-Governor's pious wish that the Burmese should not remain mere spectators has remained merely a pious wish and so far as we could make out no encouragement has been held out to Burmans by the Government to come forward and engage in industrial enterprises. On the other hand, the Government is apt to assume that the Burmans are doomed to failure and bankruptcy owing to lack of experience. The Burmese salt industry has been nearly killed, and the duties on country salt have been increased. This to us does not look like an encouragement and a desire to foster local industries. In the matter of rice, the staple produce of the country, also the positon has been very unsatisfactory. Last year, the profits from the control were enormous, but thay have not been utilized even for the benefit of the cultivators yet. The development of railways, in our opinion, would merely mean the exploitation of the cultivators by the millers big and small and exporters and middlemen. The capitalist virus is spreading all over Burma and it has now affected the small cultivators, whose sole means of livelihood depends on their owning arable lands. "The father and mother" if really fond of their children should now come forward and try to see that the lands are not alienated and such unnecessary suffering is not entailed on them through blindness and ignorance. The control has not been removed, but owing to the fall in exchange and the capacity of the millers to hold out by means of a tacit understanding or forming a sort of a ring, the cultivators have been placed in a position of grave peril. The prices are below normal and the cultivators would be forced to sell out the paddy to enable them to pay revenue to the Government unless they postpone the collection of revenue for a few months, as they did last year. We hope the Government will do so again in order to save the cultivators from being smashed to pieces in such an unequal struggle. The economic position was so strained during the year that it resulted in boycott of trams for increase of fares and some foreign goods. The boycott movement was highly successful and had the effect of bringing the prices down to a reasonable level.—*"New Burma."*

LABOUR AT JAMSHEDPUR.

In the course of a reply to an address presented to Lala Lajapat Rai an the 21st December 1920 by the Jamshedpur Labour Association, he said :—

He had always believed that the man who allowed himself to be oppressed was equally guilty with the man who oppressed him. It was their duty as men to understand the dignity of manhood, and understanding the dignity of manhood it was their bounden duty to assert their manhood whenever anybody tried to oppress them. It was an understood thing. This was a principle which he laid down often before his audience because he did not like the complaining and the crying attitude of his countrymen. He was of opinion that if they were to assert their manhood and to stand up for their rights in the right direction there was no earthly power that could oppress them. They were oppressed mostly on account of their own weakness, disunion and ignorance.

Speaking about the relation of Labour and Capital he said that they were face to face with two problems in this country. First of all they have to establish their manufacturies and their industries so that they might be able to compete on equal terms with foreign manufactures and foreign industries and for that purpose thay have to organise what capital they had got in this country. The second problem was that in oganising capital and in establishing these manufacturies and industries in this country they could not allow their labour to be exploited by the capitalists. It was a very difficult and extremely intricate problem how to decide those two issues. They could not do anything by which their manufacturies and industries might be affected by foreign trade and for that purpose they would have to make certain allowances for capital. They could not advance at the rate and so rapidly as labour in independent countries; they would have to make certain allowances for their dependency. He was very firmly of opinion that if their progress in industries and manufactures could only be purchased at the cost of the slavery of labour, that would be no progress whatever. Indian Capital and Indian Labour must work to the common advantage of the nation.

The labour in this country was not organised. It was unskilled, they might call it lazy, but it depended on how one utilised it. If the labour in this country was treated fairly and given the advantages of modern education, it would be found that it was much more sober, much more humane and much more considerate than the labour in America or anywhere else. He had moved in labour circles almost throughout the world in Japan, United States and Great Britain but he had found that the Indian labour was much more sober, much more considerate and much more easy to be controlled than the labour in Europe. It therefore depended on the skill, ability and the good-will of the capitalists and the management of the different industries to keep them in hand and contented. On the other hand he whould advise labour not to be impatient and not to go too hurriedly on strike; they must learn to wait and organise, they must learn by the experience of the world, but at same time they should not give up their heritage of being sober, serious and considerate. No good would be obtained by resorting to violent methods of agitation; no good would be obtained by doing any of those outlandish things for which modern civilisation was being condemned all round. He wished to be pardoned for sayiug that that very thing was called civilisation.

Therefore while he thought that Capital should do its duty, he would warn Labour also not to take to hurried methods and to resort unsuccessfully to strikes.

EXPORTS AND IMPORTS.

According to the Department of Statistics the trade returns for October, 1920, when compared with those for October 1919 show increases in the values of imports and re-exports but a decrease in the values of exports.

The value of imports in October 1920 was Rs.32 crores. an increase of over Rs. 15 crores or 93 per cent as compared with October 1919. The total exports, including re-exports amounted to Rs. 21 crores. The exports of Indian merchandise amounted to Rs. 19 crores, a decrease of Rs. 8, 68 lakhs or 31 per cent. and the re-exports of foreign merchandise to Rs. 182 lakhs an increase of 41 lakhs or 29 per cent, as compared with October 1919.

Imports of treasure (private) were valued at over Rs. 158 lakhs in October, 1920 as compared with Rs. 20 lakhs in the corresponding month of the preceding year. The exports on private account amounted to nearly Rs. 195 lakhs in the month under report as against Rs. 1 lakh in October, 1919.

As compared with October 1919 the imports of food drink, and tobacco in October 1920 increased by Rs. 176 lakhs to Rs. 514 lakhs, due to the larger imports of sugar, liquors, and tobacco, although there was a decrease in the imports of wheat; raw materials and articles mainly unmanufactured rose by Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 161 lakhs chiefly owing to the increase in the imports of raw silk. Articles wholly or mainly manufactured increased by 12,97 lakhs to Rs. 24,33 lakhs, due to increased imports of almost all the principal groups of articles comprising this head; and Miscellaneous and unclassified articles increased by Rs. 45 lakhs to Rs. 74 lakhs.

As compared with October 1919 the exports of food drink and tobacco in October 1920 decreased by Rs. 1, 15 lakhs to Rs. 2,73 lakhs due to smaller shipments of tea; raw materials and produce decreased by 6,13 lakhs to Rs. 7,87 lakhs, due to smaller exports of raw cotton, raw jute, and raw hides and skins; Articles wholly or mainly manufactured decreased by Rs. 1,45 lakhs to Rs. 8,22 lakhs due to smaller shipments of hides and skins tanned and cotton twist and yarn: and Miscellaneous and unclassified articles rose by Rs. 4 lakhs to Rs. 38 lakhs.

During the seven months ended October 1920, as compared with the corresponding period of 1919 the value of the imports increased by Rs. 87 crores or 82 per cent to Rs 191 crores and the total exports including re-exports decreased by Rs. 16 crores or 9 per cent to Rs. 163 crores. The exports of indian merchandise showed a decrease of Rs. 1737 lakhs. or 10 per cent, while the re-exports increased by Rs. 95 lakhs or 8 per cent. The grand total of imports exports and re-exports amounted to Rs. 354 crores, as against Rs. 284 crores, an increase of Rs 70 crores or 25 per cent.

Import of treasure (private and Government) decreased by Rs. 10,61 lakhs to nearly Rs. 23,33 lakhs, Gold bullion rose by Rs. 14, 28 lakhs to 15,68 lakhs but sovereigns and other British gold coin fell by Rs. 45 lakhs to Rs. 2,62 lakhs; while other coined gold was valued at Rs. 70 lakhs against Rs. 48,000 only in the corresponding period of 1919. Imports of silver decreased by Rs. 25,16 lakhs to Rs. 4,33 lakhs. Exports of treasure also decreased by Rs. 9,74 lakhs to Rs. 3,63 lakhs. In the seven months ended October 1920 there was a total net (private) import of Rs. 36,60 lakhs, as against net exports of Rs. 73,59 lakhs and Rs. 51,60 lakhs in the correeponding period of 1919 and 1918, respectively. The balance of trade, so far as shown by the statistics of merchandise

treasure, Council bills, and enfaced rupee paper, was against India to the extent of Rs. 872 lakhs in the seven months April to October 1920 as compared with Rs. 4,704 lakhs and Rs. 2,066 lakhs in favour of India in 1919 and 1918, respectively.—"*Bengali*".

NATIONAL LIBERAL FEDERATION.
EXCHANGE AND CURRENCY.

Mr. V. G. Kale moved the following resolution:—

In view of the admitted failure of the efforts of the Government of India to maintain the country's gold exchange at or near the basis recommended by the last Committee on Exchange and Currency and even at the sterling level fixed by themselves, and in view of the enormous losses caused to the Indian Exchequer mainly by the sale of reverse councils against which the public strongly protested, and the utter disorganisation and demoralisation of the export and the import trade of the country which have been accentuated by the said policy of the Government, the National Liberal Federation strongly urges a fresh and immediate inquiry into the whole exchange and currency problem, such a reconsideration of Government's policy having been recommended by the Babington Smith Committee itself. The Federation further urges that the suggested reconsideration should aim at placing the Indian system of exchange and currency on a self-adjusting basis so as to promote the best interests of the trade, manufactures, industries and finances of the country and to bring India in a line in this connection with the advanced nations of the world.

FISCAL POLICY OF INDIA.

Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar moved :—

In pursuance of the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Governor-General in Council in February 1920 to advise as to the best method of considering the future fiscal policy of India, the National Liberal Federation of India urges the immediate appointment of a strong and representative Commission, with power to take evidence in various parts of the country from representatives of all interests concerned, such as those of importers, exporters, producers, manufacturers and consumers, to examine the whole question of the future fiscal policy of India.

The Federation further urges that the country should not be committed, in the meanwhile, to any policy of imperial preference until a Commission such as the one recommended above has collected evidence and made its report.

He said that the question of free trade versus protection was highly controversial, the opinion on which was actually divided. A correct reading of history showed that England adjusted the system of protection first and took to the policy of free trade only after she had sufficiently developed her trade. The Colonies also pursued much the same policy. Following that, the Indian economists said that so long as India was faced with tremendous competition and powerful and organised industrial expansion of the West, there was no possibility of building up of an Indian Industrial system unless some kind of protection was given in regard to her own industries. Public opinion in India was very much in favour of this system. Since the debate in the Imperial Legislative Council led by Mr. G. Chitnavis, another school of thought had arisen who advocated a policy of Imperial Preference. The Joint Committee report on Indian constitutional reforms had laid it down that henceforth the fiscal policy of India should not be dictated from Whitehall and that India herself should be allowed to determine her fiscal policy without any interference from the Secretary of State. In view of these circumstances, it was necessary to consider in right earnest the fiscal problem in all its bearings and get expert opinion as to whether protection or imperial preference was suited to promote the best interests of the country.

Mr. Jamnadas Dwarkadas in seconding the resolution said that the free trade policy that was foisted upon India by Great Britain and pleaded for a system of protection until India could hold her own against foreign competition.

THE FACTORY ACT.

Moved by Mr. N. M. Joshi and seconded by Mr. Mavji Govindjee, the following resolution was passed.—

The Federation is of opinion that to improve the conditions of labour in this country, the Factory Act should be amended in the following respects:—

(1) Work in all industrial undertakings should for the present be limited to ten hours a day in the case of men, eight in the case of women and five in the case of children between the ages of 12 and 14. (2) Children between fourteen and sixten years should be classed as young persons and their hours of work should not exceed six hours. (3) In the case of mines the maximum should be fixed at 54 hours a week. (4) Exceptions under Sections 21 and 22 of the Indian Factories Act of 1912 should be removed altogether. (5) A rule should be made prohibiting the employment of women for six weeks before and six weeks after child-birth and provision sholud be made for maternity benefit, (6) Women and children should under no circumstances be employed during night time (7) Provision should be made for the appointment of special health officers, including women health officers, to supervise health conditions in factories. (8) The minimum age for admission to industrial employment should be fixed at twelve. (9) The definition of "Factory" should be so revised that all industrial undertakings employing 20 persons and above even without the use of mechanical power are brought under the Act.

ELECTRIC FURNACE DEVELOPMENT.
Turning out Steel.

The steady growth in the number of electric furnaces in use and the very rapid increase in yearly output of electric steel which has been taking place in Europe and America show that electrically-melted steel has a definite place in the steel industry, where it can compete with pre-existing process and even successfully displace them.

The electric furnace has forced its way into the circle of the economically sound systems, says "Engineering," notwithstanding the adverse criticism and destructive prejudice of its detractors, and in spite of the lavish praises of the selling agencies, because advantages have been claimed for it which it never possessed, and its real advantages are only now coming to the front.

During the war an abnormal development took place owing to its suitability for using up the enormous quantities of turnings from shell manufacture which drugged the market, and as is usual with quick growths weaknesses soon became apparent. For these weaknesses in its development the whole blame was put on the electric furnace when it often lay elsewhere, the furnace makers themselves being partly responsible through their over-confident assertions and ignorant claims.

One very serious error was the inference, sedulously spread at one time, that the steel made in an electric furnace was always of the very best quality—turnings or any old kind of scrap submitted to the magical influence of the electric became at once the steel par excellence for any and every purpose, and those who had been led to believe this and found to their cost that the statement was based more on optimism than truth turned round and heaped their curses on the offending process, at the same time in many cases going back to the older process of steel-making which they understood through long familiarity.

And those who thus acted cannot well be blamed for their attitude, for it is now generally appreciated that it is just as easy to make bad steel in an electric furnace as in a furnace of any other type and that to make good steel requires training and a knowledge of the properties of liquid steel, as well as a knowledge of the type of furnace in use. What must be regretted is that it will take a long time to bring confidence back to these twice-shy people who have been once bitten. Such confidence can only be restord by the publication of the actual results obtained by users who have had more skill or perhaps a little more perseverance.

INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER.

The truth of our observation, in our criticism of the appointment of Sir William Meyer to the High Commissionership of India in London, that being a non-Indian he would never be able to bring to bear, in the discharge of his responsibilities, the same impartiality of attitude and especially the same genuine concern for the progress of Indian industries which an Indian in his place would have done, is well illustrated in the communique he has just issued in England on the subject of the purchase of stores for the Government of India, writes *Bombay Chronicle*. The public of this country is well aware of the ruthless sacrifice of the interests of Indian manufactures to those of British manufacturers all these years the India Office in the purchase of these stores. As a result of the Crew Committee's recommendations some hope has been held out lately that as far as possible purchases of these stores will be made in India itself and that also due encouragement will be given to Indian manufactures. This has naturally alarmed the British manufacturers who had been enjoying the monopoly of official patronage all along. It is with a view to allay this alarm that Sir William has hastened to tell them that no radical change in the old method of purchases is contemplated and that they may rest assured that their interests will in no way suffer. Would an Indian High Commissioner have deemed it necessary to allay such selfish alarm as the British manufacturers are showing? We repeat again that Indian interests can never be safe in the hands of any persons, however exalted, save those of Indians themselves.

NATIONALISM AND INDUSTRY.

Indian capitalists and industrial magnates, who are fond of vaunting their patriotism and dwelling on the need of encouraging indigenous talent, but who, at the same, betray a woefull lack of confidence in their own countrymen and fail to carry out their precepts into practice when opportunities present themselves to them will do well to lay to heart the following remarks of Col. Wedgwood made at a recent meeting of Madras students.—

"They had got to-day, in India, the beginnings of a great industrial revolution. They had got the great Tatas developing wonderful industry in Jamshedpur, and all over India industrial development was beginning. He wanted Indians to take a share in that development. There was a large tendency at the present day to employ Europeans where Indians could be employed in those industries, partly because of the jealousy of the European to keep the good job to himself and partly also because of the lack of national self-reliance on the part of Indian Directors and Shareholders. It was obvious to him that now when industries were really starting in India, when great orders were being placed in European markets for materials and machines, now was the time when their industrial magnates were starting Indian students in industry to stipulate to the firms supplying machines, etc., that they should take in a certain number of Indian students to learn the tricks of the trade in the factories where the machines were being made. Then Indian students would get a chance of starting in the Engineering profession, and that chance might not recur."

When Col. Wedgwood was offered the post of naval architect at the University of Tokio, one of the conditions attached to the offer was that his appointment was to be for three years only at the end of which he was to have trained somebody to take up his place. The Government of India are large purchasers of machinery but we have never heard that they have at any time stipulated with the manufacturers that some Indian students should be taken up by them as apprentices in their factories, (*Contd. on page 8.*)

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FAILURE OF FARROW'S BANK.

The Failure of Farrow's Bank in England is regarded as very unfortunate. The Bank did not stop payment until the Directors came to know of the action contemplated by the Public Prosecutor. The Bank is reported to have been losing money for several years past and concealing its true state of affairs by issuing false belance-sheets and this is the charge the directors of the Bank have to meet.

According to the latest published Balance Sheet of this Bank dated 30th June 1920, the current and other accounts stood at £ 1,458, 317 and deposit accounts at about £ 2,678, 726. The authorised capital of the Bank was £ 1,000,000 in £ 1 shares, of the subscribed and paid up capital being £ 700,000 and £ 361,423 respectively, with a reserve liability of £ 336, 757 on the part of the shareholders.

At the last general meeting of the Bank, Mr. Thomas Farrow is said to have announced that the capital was to be increased to £ 2,000,000. A correct estimate of the loses subtained by the Bank can be ascertained only after a public investigation into the affairs of the Bank which must have begun by now. It is even reported that Mr. Thomas Farrow attempted to create a new Bank but failed.

The past success of Farrow's Bank is said to have been due to its allowing interest on undrawn balances in current accounts which in the opinion of some newspapers in England, is against all principles of sound Banking. In practice, the Scottish and Continental Banks do allow interest on current accounts while some Banks in England refuse to do so. It has been stated that even the London Banks allow substantial interest to customers who take the trouble of writing to the Manager. Any one may have a deposit account or drawing account in any Bank.

New Banks.

To establish a new Bank in competition with the existing joint-stock Banks is no easy task especially under the prevailing conditions. The interests of the depositors should be considered first and foremost. It is usual for depositors to resort to the old and well-established institutions while trading firms of good standing seldom keep Banking accounts with a second or third class Bank. Hence, for a new Bank to establish itself, the support of the depositors and traders should be relied upon. The real difficulty for a new Bank to establish itself is that it takes a long time to establish its own credit and to obtain public recognition especially in these days of monopoly and keen competition. In India several Industrial and Commercial Banks have of late sprung up to finance industries and trade and their progress and development will have to be watched with interest.

In England as in America and elsewhere big Banks have formed themselves into a financial ring while fresh Banks on Joint-Stock lines are being started. What is wanted in a Bank is chiefly credit and not capital. The capital of a Bank is generally utilised to meet preliminary expenses and to commence the operations at the initial stage. To quote a notable instance, the Australian Commonwealth Bank was started with £ 10,000 which was lent by the Commonwealth for the purpose of meeting preliminary expenses and within six months after starting, this amount was returned. The Bank was able within six years, to make a profit of about a Million a year, and to-day, it is working side by side with other Joint-Stock Banks with great success.

This event serves as a typical example for India to show to our Government how the indigenous industrial and banking enterprise should be fostered. The creation of departments of Government, such as Industries, Agriculture, Science and Research &c., whereby the Government will be in full possession of all the information and resources does not help the people in the advancement of the enterprise. The granting of monopolies or the forming of industrial colonies will not further the industrial progress of the people of the land except to convert them as mere labourers.

The example of the Australian Commonwealth deserves to be followed by our Government to advance our industrial development.

It is often suggested that the Bank of England should be taken over by the Government to act as a Central Banking Institution or Clearing House of all other Banks. In India the new Imperial Bank of India is expected to be a Central institution and Clearing House and what is wanted is the number of other Banks should be increased and a healthy competition encouraged. Any attempt, on the part of the Imperial Bank to compete with the private or Joint-Stock Banks should be discouraged by Government. Lastly, in trade centres like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon, Municipal Banks should be established for which the Government aid need not extend beyond a few thousand rupees for preliminary expenses and they would need no Capital whatsoever.

WEAVING AS HOME INDUSTRY.

On the 3rd instant Mrs. Sarala Devi Chowdhurani delivered a lecture at Nagpur, exhorting women to take to spinning wheel and help the production of cloth in the country, thereby supporting millions of hungry souls. She also advised men to wear cloths made out of such yarn by their women folk in preference to all others.

HANDLOOM WEAVING.

Mr. D. M. Amalsad, Weaving expert to the Government of Madras delivered an interesting lecture at the Mangalore Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition last month on the development of the hand weaving factories in the West Coast. After discussing the details of cotton manufacture, he laid stress on the most economical method of gray and coloured warp and weft preparation by power driven machinery and compared the processes and cost of production by the slow hand methods. All the minor factory owners were advised strongly to obtain ready made warps from a Central Warp Distributive Factory. To make the scheme a real success, organised methods of control, financing and running of a Central Plant are suggested. Yarn should be purchased in bulk and in the most suitable form. It is absolutely necessary that private enterprises in the shape of joint stock companies should be established with a view to find a ready market for finished goods. Mr. Amalsad is quite right in the opinion that too much dependence on Government help in industrial development should be avoided and private enterprises should be encouraged to take the initiative in all matters by granting loans and expert advice.

THE RAILWAY COMMITTEE.

The Indian Railway Committee presided over by Sir William Aacworth has been sitting in India, and taking evidence on certain important problems directly affecting Indians, the most important of which is the Company *v.* State Management of Railways. Every possible effort will be made by the Railway Companies and other allied commercial organisations in this country to point to the opinion in favour of Company management, while the bulk of the Indian Public opinion is emphatically in favour of State Management and totally opposed to Company Management. The grievances of the Indian passengers merchants and manufactures have been repeatedly expressed in the public press for a long time past without being attended to by the Railway Companies. The Indian public are thoroughly dissatisfied with the present situation which is calculated to hamper Indian trade and industry and to encourage foreign trade, both export and import. Government action in the matter has not so far yielded any appreciable results in spite of the fact that the Government have been spending annually several lakhs of Rupees of the Indian tax payers' money on Railways, the profits accuring thereon having been reaped by the company shareholders and directors who are non-Indians residing at a distant of 6,000 miles away from the scene of the operations without caring for the comforts and conveniences of the millions of Indians for whom the railways are intended. Indian people are denied all access to the highly paid appointments in Railway service and are destined to remain as mere labourers in subordinate ranks of the service. They have not been given any opportunities of training in Railway Engineering and other branches of Railway administration and are treated as foreigners in their own native land. In view of the extreme importance of railways as a national asset of great industrial and economic value to India, and of the altered situation created by the Reforms Act, it is but just that the management of Railways should be placed under the control of the Indian Legislature and Reformed Councils. The matter has become all the more important in view of the impending termination of the East Indian Railway's term of contract the renewl of which is opposed by the Indian public opinion and legislature. The members of the Railway Committee have a serious responsibility to discharge at the present moment, now that the feeling of the Indian public is growing intense against Company management while their diffidence is also on the increase in the actions of the Commissions and Committees. Numerous Commissions and Committees were appointed in the past but their conclusions did not satisfy the bulk of the Indian public opinion. The grievances of the millions were not redressed and have continued to agitate the public mind so much so that the people began to regard their appointment as a mere farce involving a huge burden of expenditure on the tax-payer. It has been felt by the people that Committees and Commissions are not the proper medium for redressing the public grievances. Responsible public men have already pointed out that the Railway

Committee will succeed in keeping the "Centre of Gravity" of Railway administration in London and will thus fulfil the wishes of British business and professional men who are profitted by Indian Railways and whose influence is of no small magnitude. The advantages derived by the manufacturers and dealers in Railway Stores are considerable. Under these circumstances it is hoped that the Committee will be just and impartial in their enquiry without being unduly influenced by vested interests. In the best interests of public convenience and administration, Indian public opinion demands that the central offices of the Managing Boards of Railways should be located in India.

THE MADRAS CENTRAL URBAN BANK LTD.

We are glad to learn that a Branch of the Madras Central Uban Brank Ltd. has been opened at No. 118, Armenian Street, Madras with a view to afford special convenience to the business public. A suggestion to this effect was made in these columns sometime ago. The Bank has also recently increased the rate of interest on current account balances to *three per cent.*, while prudential deposits carry interest at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. per annum. A copy of the detailed rules of business can be had of the Secretary, at the Head Office, Mylapore, or of the Manager at the above Branch.

REVIEWS

The Modern Review. The January Number of the "Modren Review which contains 150 pages of Reading matter, *i. e.*, 50 per cent. more than the usual size in spite of the increased cost of paper is one of the most ably conducted English Journals, edited, published and managed by Indians. Its Editor, Mr. Ramananda Chatterjee is a well-known gentleman of high parts, quite free from party bias and full of the love of patriotism. The Review before us maintains its usual standard of excellence and contains many valuable contributions. In his article on "Abraham Lincoln the Prophet of Democracy",Dr. Sudhindra Bose describes Lincoln's "high qualities, inestimable virtues and true piety and religious fidelity "of character. After explaining how Lincoln strived hard to safeguard the economic and political rights of the labouring class, he says "The Indian civilization would perish, if it were not for the fruits of Indian labourers. It is the workers who bear the heaviest burdens of the country. It is they who make the largest contribution to the necessities of life. It is they who are the greatest producers of wealth; it is they who till the soil, raise crops, dig mines and toil in shops and factories. Yet it is these poor toilers for more than any others, who are the prey of injustice, oppression, greed, and selfishness of the State and Society; and it is the life of the working man that is a continuous battle with hunger, disease, starvation, wretchedness, and almost every form of human degradation."

"University Problems of To-day" is the subject of an article by Prof. Jadunath Sarkar in which he acknowledges the fact that "a modern university is a very costly thing" and the creation of new universities in the same province means "the duplication of the entire administrative staff, office buildings, examination halls, senate house, library etc. printing and travelling expenses and cost of setting and printing question papers" which is no economy to the nation but a waste of the tax payer's money to make eduction a costly luxury. To the 5 older universities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Allahabad and the Punjab, 5 new ones have been added between 1917 and 1920 and 3 more *viz.* Nagpur, Lucknow and Agra universities are under contemplation. The Patna University, established in October 1917, as a purely examining board has only 6 Colleges and turns out less than 300 graduates a year. The extra cost involved by the creation of this board exceeds a lakh of Rupees a year or about Rs. 400 per graduate per annum. Such expenditure is bound to be on the increase year after year and cannot be regarded as a productive investment for the benefit of the nation but an "imported" luxury. If education is meant for the real benefit of the nation, it should be as cheap as possible and within the easy reach of the poorest man in India and at the same time ought to prove a profitable investment. People ought to realise that education is as necessary and indispensable as food and clothing.

He concludes that the salvation of the labouring class is the surest foundation of the economic prosperity of India.

Rajani Kantha Das, writing on the "Factory Legislation in India" says "The factory system of production is the foundation of the modern industrial organization. Machinery, mechanical power and division of labour have made the factory system much more economical than the handicraft system." But, there is a difference of opinion in this matter as to whether the factory system of production on a large scale is better and more beneficial to the society than the indiginous system of cottege industries in a vast country like India peopled by millions of poor and helpless labourers. An Article on "the Small Industry" appeard in these columns of December number in which the position of small industries was discussed. Small industries are still holding their own in India in spite of the adverse economic conditions and the huge competition of the large factories of the western countries. One of the most important of these is the handloom weaving industry. Even Dr. Das is of opinion that the importation into India of the modern factory system from the advanced countries of the west has brought with it some of the problems of vital importance affecting human society such as, unemployment, inadequate wages, hours of working and fatigue. With a view to afford adequate production to the workers and capitalists, legislative measures are being urged. He acknowledges that "factory legislation has resulted out of the conflict between capital and labour and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce is the prime mover of the Indian Factory Acts". The first steam power factory was established at Bombay in 1863. The cottege industry made a rapid progress soon after and created apprehension among the British public, especially among the Manchester interests, that the cotton manufacture of India might successfully compete with that of Great Britain, both at home and abroad. Goaded by the spirit of rivalry, Lancashire manufacturers started strong agitation with a twofold object in view; first, to have the Indian market, where they sold one-fourth of their annual export, free from any import duty on cotton goods; second, to apply the British factory law to India so that their competitors could not enjoy any "undue privilege over them". No doubt the factory system of industry is essential to the progress of the Indian Industrial Development and beneficial to the capitalist. Whether it is an ideal system advantageous to the poor millions of India especially owing to her present political and economic dependency is a great problem awaiting solution. The best and perhaps the only method of dealing with this vital problem is to organise on sound business lines the cottege weaving industry throughout the length and breadth of India and the measure of its success will depend not so much on Government legislation but on the extent of the educated Indian man power and banking facilities to systematically organise this indigenous and decaying national industry.

Acknowledgment. We have received wall calenders from Messrs D. L. Sastri & Co., Engineers, 12 Thambu Chetty St., Madras and Messrs. Kartik & Co., Triplicane, Madras.

THE INDIAN MERCHANTS' CHAMBER AND BUREAU.

Summary of the Proceedings of the Committee for October & November 1920.

1. Contribution to the Bombay Development Loan :—

1. It was resolved to circulate the appeal of the Hon. Secretaries of the Bombay development Loan Committee by printing it in the monthly Journal of the Chamber and to purchase Rs. 10,000 worth of the said loan.

2. Position of Indians in East Africa and the Kenia Colony :—

A communique was received from the Government of India, Commerce Department, that an intimation was received from the Governor-General of East Africa that the question of appointment of a Committee to advise the Repatriation Commissioner was engaging the serious attention of the Union Government and that the Union Government had given assurance that all the officers concerned were asked not to use any compulsion or persuasion in carrying out the repatriation programme. The Committee recommended that Indians should be appointed on the Committee which may be formed for the purpose of advising the Repatriation Commissioner; it was also suggested that there should be at least one Indian on the staff of the executive officers.

3. The Postal Strike in Bombay:—

The Committee sent a telegram to the Government of India, Commerce department, drawing their attention to the numerous hardships and irregularities which the commercial community generally and particularly the Indian section thereof had to undergo as a result of the continuance of the Postal strike in the city of Bombay. In reply they were informed that the Government had appointed a Committee with a view to enquire into conditions and the pay of the Subordinate Postal Staffs in India. It was further stated that the Government of India besides making every effort to deal with the recommendations of the Committee expeditiously accepted those recommendations practically in full. Under the circumstances while the Government of India regretted the inconveniences to which the commercial community and the general public of Bombay had been put by the strike they were not able to hold out any prospects of their being able to offer further concessions to the Postmen and Telegraphic Peons of the city in order to induce them to return to work. It was also added that the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs had proceed to Bombay in order to examine the arrangements made to carry out the Post and Telegraphic services in the city and the Committe might rely on it that all possible measures would be taken by the Post Office and the Telegraphic Department as well as by the Government of India to mitigate the inconveniences which the strike had caused to the public of the Bombay city.

4. Embargo on the imports of spirits manufactured at Baroda.

The Committee sent a representation to the Government of India pointing out certain disabilities under which the Alembic Chemical Works Co. at Baroda laboured. In reply the Committee were informed by the Government of India that the Government of the Punjab to whom the Chamber's representation on the subject was forwarded considered that any relaxation of their order would raise far-reaching questions of excise policy from which no new departure seemed desirable in view of the impending introduction of the Reforms Scheme. They had therefore decided that the question should be postponed until it came to be reviewed by the Minister in Charge of Excise and the New Provincial Council. It was resolved to send a copy of the letter to the Alembic Chemical Works Co., Baroda.

5. Amendment of the Indian Paper Currency Act, 1920.

The Government of India, Finance Department, drew the attention of the Committee to Section 14 of the Indian Paper Currency Act and invited suggestions from the Committee both generally and more particularly with respect to the following points :—

(*a*) The class of commercial Bills of Exchange which should be accepted for purposes of the issue of notes.

(*b*) The recommendation of the Currency Committee that in the first instance the Bills of Exchange which should be accepted for the purposes above stated should be limited to bona-fide commercial bills against goods under export.

(*c*) The suggestions made to the Government of India that import Bills might be accepted as cover for the expansion of currency.

(*d*) The suggestion contained in para 80 of the Report of the Indian Exchange and Currency Committee that advances to the Imperial Bank in connection with the seasonal issues of currency should not be at less than 8 per cent. per annum.

(*e*) The procedure which the Government of India contemplate to adopt in respect of the operation of the provisions of the Act, namely, that in the event of a demand arising for additional currency the probale course would be for the Government of India to make a loan to the Imperial Bank from currency; such loan should be covered by the commercial Bills of Exchange. It was resolved to send this letter to the Finance Sub-Commitee for report. On the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee it was resolved to send a reply to the Government of India embodying in the main the following views and suggestions:—

(*a*) As regards the class of Bills the Committee understand that in the Federal Reserve Act of America the discount by a Federal Reserve Bank is limited to bills arising out of actual commercial transactions. The Committee are of opinion that the bills so discounted in India should have a maturity of not more then 90 days at the time of discount exactly as in America.

(*b*) That the Committee are unable to agree with the recommendation of the Currency Committee that such bills should in the first instance be only Bills against goods under export. Nor do they think that this emergeny currrency can be rightly used for import bills.

(*c*) As regards the need for Emergeny Currency for internal Bills the Committee are of opinion that the need will be most marked in seasons when the normal movement of our export is checked ; or causes beyond our control and produce requires finance pending a recovery of the foreign trade.

(*d*) As regards the rate, the Committee agree with the view that it is advisable to restrict the issue of the Emergency Currency to cases of approved and acute stringency.

(*e*) As regards the general procedure to be adopted the Committee approve of the issue of the Emergency Currency through the Imperial Bank in the form of a Loan to banks provided it is not used by the latter banks as an addition to their own resources for the development of their own business.

6. The Indian Railway Committee.

A letter was received from the Railway Department, Government of India, announcing the appointment of a Railway Committee and enclosing its terms of reference. A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider these terms of reference. Later on the Committee were sent copies of the questions prepared for the guidance of witnesses with a request to appoint one or two representatives on behalf of the Chamber to give evidence before the Railway Committee. It was resolved to appoint Sir Vithaldas D. Thackersay, Sir Fazulbhoy Currimbhoy and Mr. Lalji Naranji (Chairman) as representatives of the Chamber. A Sub-Committee was also appointed to discuss the questions supplied by the Railway Committee.

7. The Bombay Development Loan.

The Committee sent a representation to the Government of Bombay, Development Board, in connection with the Bombay Development Scheme. While discussing in general the development Scheme the Committee proposed the following suggsetions for the consideration of the Government :—

(i) That even if the cost of Indian contractors was a little bit more, preference should always be given to them as the resulting profits would remain in the country and they would prove more successful in dealing with the difficult problems of labour and local conditions.

(ii) That the new form of tender which guaranteed a minimum profit to the contractor should not be introduced in this country where the system had always been to have fixed rates. In conclusion it was requested that if the Bombay Development Loan was to be rightly used for the real development of Bombay, the Government would be pleased to adopt the suggestions made by the Committee. In reply the Committee were informed that the allotment of contracts by public bodies was a matter for the public bodies themselves to determine, but when the contracts would be given by the Development Department the suggestions made by the Committee would be considered. The reply being placed before the Committee it was resolved to again write to the Government reminding them of the intentions with which the loan was raised and requesting them to carry out those intentions. It was also resolved to send a copy of the original representation made by the Committee to various public bodies such as the Bombay Municipality, the Improvement Trust.

8. The Segregation of Indians in East Africa:—

A telegram was received from the Indian Association, Mombasa, protesting against the racial segregation adopted in East Africa and requesting the Committee to send their protest to the Government of India in the matter. The Committee accordingly sent a telegram to the Commerce Department Government of India Simla requesting the Government to be pleased to make urgent enquiries in the matter and to stop immediately the East African Government from perpetrating injustice upon Indian settlers. The Govenment in reply informed the Committee that they had communicated the substance of the telegram of the Indian Association, Mombasa, to the Secretary of State for India. In this connection a few representatives of the Committee of this Chamber and of the Colonial Merchants' Association had also an interview with Mr. Corbett of the Government of India. He assured the Committee that the question affceting Indians in East Africa was under the serious consideration of the Government of India.

9. The Committee nominated Mr. C..V. Mohta, M. L. C. as their representation of the Chamber on the Committee to be appointed by the Government of Bombay to draft a comprehensive scheme of Technical and Industrial Education -in the Bombay Presidency.

10. The Coal Situation :—

The attention of the Committee was drawn to the coal crisis all over India. The Committee accordingly sent a representation to the Department of Commerce, Government of India, Simla, stating that the Committee would like to put before the Government the following few suggestions in order to mitigate the hardships caused by the present coal crisis:—(*a*) that a Committee should be appointed in Bombay as the certifying authority consisting of one representative each of the following Associations, namely, the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, the Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau, and the Bombay Mill -owners' Association;—(*b*) that all the waggons from the collieries must be dispatched to Bombay, Ahmedabad, or any other consuming station consigned to consumers only and not to any private individual and merchant or under public supply; (*c*) that the Committee should be authorised to keep an emergency stock at Bombay and Ahmedabad to supply mills which may run short of coal due to some accidents as also to supply the petty consumers and should be empowered to fix from time to time the selling rates; (d) that the Committee should deal with malpractices by any consumer or merchant; (e) that public supply of waggons must be stopped altogether to all Stations in the Presidency.

With regard to the Bunker coal the Committee drew the attention of the Government to the heavy export of Banker coal to foreign ports. Lastly, the Committee requested the Government to be informed as to what improvements if any had taken place in the position of the supply of waggons as compared with the position which existed in the year 1918 and 1919. The Government in reply informed the Committee that the points raised by them in the representation would be considered and a further reply would be sent. Ih the meantime, however, they informed the Committee that the export of coal was prohibited by the Government of India except under license with effect from the 24th July 1920; the only ports to which Indian coal wos allowed to be exported were certain important bunkering ports in the vicinity of India, namely Calcutta, Singapore, Aden and Sabang.

11. The rate of telegrams between Aden and the United Kingdom:

The attention of the Committee was drawn by a member to the discrepancy that existed in the rate of telegrams between Aden and the United Kingdom. As compared with the rate of telegram between Bombay and the United Kingdom (Re. 1.) the rate between Aden and the United Kingdom (Rs. 1-4) which was a smaller distance appeared to be unreasonable. In reply to the letter sent by the Committee to the Posts and Telegraph Department, Government of India, they were informed that the letter was sent to Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd. for disposal. A letter was received from the Eastern Telegraph Co., Ltd. informing the Chamber that owning to the small traffic with Aden and the high cost of working the station, the Company did not see their way to place Aden on a level with Indian tariff. It was also stated that the Company were quite aware of the discrepancy in the charges and that the fact would not be lost sight of if opportunity arose at any future time. It was resolved to send a copy of this letter to the member from whom the correspondence originated.

12. Rate of duty on Bleaching Powder and Knitting Needles :—

Letters were received from Messrs. Surji Valabhdas and the Gujarat Hosiery Factory protesting against the mode of levying duties adopted by the Customs Department in respect of the articles noted above.

In both these matters the Secretary had an interview with the Collector of Customs who explained that his department was working in the matter under the law as it stood at present and that he had no discretion. It was resolved to inform the parties accordingly with a request to let the Committee know if they wanted them to proceed further in the matter.

13. At an Interview with Mr. Lindsay, I. C. S., Director-General of Commercial Intelligence, Calcutta, in connection with the forthcoming revision of import tariffs, suggestions were made by the Committee in the matter of fixing the final tariffs at Calcutta.

PUNJAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Summary of the Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 11th December 1920 received by us from the Office of the Chamber :—

1. The Committee opposed the increase of Railway freight recently proposed by the Railway Board as it would hamper the progress of industry in the Punjab.

2. The Committee appointed a deputation of five members to wait on his Honour the Lieutenant-Governor of the Punjab to represent the Chamber's claim for a nominated seat in the Punjab Legislative Council for the next 3 years in view of the disallowance of the nomination of Mr. Gray.

(*Continued from page* 5.)

This defect will only be removed when the Government becomes truly national. But a heavy duty rests upon all Indian capitalists, to see that due encouragement is given to indigenous talent in all the industrial enterprises they undertake and that no opportunities are lost for the training of Indian youth in the technical knowledge that western countries can impart. (*Bombay Chronicle.*)

UNDER-SELLING BY GERMANY.

At a recent public meeting in Birmingham to consider the question of unemployment a very remarkable speech was made by Mr. Charles Sangster, Managing Director of the Ariel Cycle Works, on the subject of under-selling by Germany as affecting British industries in the home market. The aspect of the question in its bearing upon British manufactures is one that is too seldom brought forward—namely, the effect of the depreciated German money in exchange. Mr. Sangester illustrated this in various ways. He took first the cost of living, reckoning it in Germany as six times and in Great Britain at three times the pre-war cost. That is to say that in Great Britain to-day three shillings has only the purchasing power that one shilling had in 1913, while in Germany six marks is the equivalent in purchasing power of one mark in 1913, when the shilling and the mark were par equivalents. But while the mark has depreciated in Germany to one-sixth of its face value, its depreciation for exchange in Great Britain is more than double that degree; that is to say, in exchange a shilling is worth 12½ marks. Mr. Sangster applies these facts thus: When the German sells goods over here for a British shilling, as he is doing, for that British shilling he can obtain 12½ German shillings. By the exchange alone the German thus doubles the price of the goods he exports, so far as the purchasing value of the British money he receives goes. That purchasing value doubles his trading capital, and thus he is enabled to increase his production, and to further undersell British goods in their own home market. Mr. Saugster from this statement of the situation in general, proceeded to give instances of German under-selling against Birmingham manufactures. One was in the fancy stationery and paper trade, the manufacture of papiermache Easter eggs. During the last few years all these goods were made in England, and this is the season for beginning the work—just when the Christmas trade has closed. The Germans, however, have been in the market for some time, offering Easter eggs at one penny each, nicely finished with hinges, all complete. The firm in question at first declined to do business, but soon found that certain competitors had brought these German goods. So they were forced, in order to retain their customers, to close down their factory, discharge all their workers, and place the whole of their orders in Germany at 1*d*, but that gives the German maker 1*s* 0½*d* in his own money, a price that in British money would have yielded a big profit to the British maker. A friend of Mr. Sangster, who was over in Germany a short time ago, was offered a parcel of penknives, beautifully finished, all complete, with mother-of-pearl handles, marked "Clifton, Sheffield." He was asked what would be a fair wholesale price for those knives, and he said from 3*s* 6*d* to 4*s* 6*d* each, and was thereupon offered 100,000 gross at 1*s* each, which would be the equivalent of 12*s* 6*d* in the German maker's own money. Mr. Sangster's company make pedal bicycles, and the cheapest British-made bicycle to-day is retailed at somewhere between ten and twelve guineas. A little buying syndicate recently purchased, and have had delivered, 14,000 German bicycles, an exact imitation of a well-known British bicycle, at £2 each, minus tyres and saddles, which is very much less than the cost of labour alone would be on a similar British bicycle. But the German maker gets £25 in his own money for each of these 14,000 bicycles, minus tyres and saddles; that is to say, he is getting twice as much in German money as his British competitor would get for a like machine in British money. Brand new Benz motor cars—a very fine make of German car—with limousine bodies, are now being offered in London at £400. A similar body alone, Mr. Sangster declared, could not be produced by British labour, and cost of material, to sell for less than £600. But in German money the German maker is getting £5,000 for the Benzu car. The German producer is profiting in two ways by the depreciation of the mark. He is getting a monoply of his home market. The British manufacturers cannot compete with him in his own market; the exchange is too heavily in his favour. Even if he charges six times the price, and pays six times the pre-war wages rate, the German has still 100 per cent. advantage over the British producer in the German market, just as he has in selling against the British manufacturer in the British market. It has to be admitted that this German underselling in the British market is not dumping; the export price is not below the home price in German money. Yet it is underselling to a degree that is putting British goods out of the British market, and is thus creating unemployment. Surely here is a situation in which Tariff Reform is the only remedy.—(*Belfast News*).

QUESTIONS FOR GERMANY.

The present session of the Brussels Conference on reparations was brought to a conclusion, says *Times* and the Allied delegates in charge of the various subjects would keep in touch with the respective German experts.

It is apparently agreed among the Allies that a limit has been reached in direct taxation as at present imposed in Germany. Increases might possibly take other forms, but taxation by the present incidence of incomte-ax, property-tax and capital levy is considered to have too drastic an effect on capital. At the present rate a grand climax will soon be reached after which there is every prospect of a serious decline. The Allied delegates have asked some searching questions on this matter. They desire to know, among other things, the exact truth of the flight of capital abroad. They ask for an estimate of German wealth, bank deposits, securities, property, &c., in neutral countries; how the present figure compares with the figures of 1913 and 1919; and what is the income from that property. A further question bearing to some extent on the main subject, is the demand for the amount of German paper currency held abroad and German credit held by foreigners.

It is becoming clear that the capacity of Germany to pay in relation to taxation will be found to lie in the direction of Customs and Excise rather than in levies on capital, which would have the treble disadvantage of being non-recurring, of driving capital abroad, and of starving production. Economic experts are therefore to look into the sales prices and profits of such articles as sugar, tea, coffee, tobacco, beer, spirits, wine, and petrol. It is believed that quite appreciable revenue can be raised from these sources.

Side by side with these projects for promoting revenue from taxation, the Allies ask for information upon Germany's export and import figures which have hitherto, as the German delegates themselves admitted, been available only in a rather unreliable form. The questions ask for an "up-to-date table of exports and imports, stating quantities as well as monetary values" with comparative table for 1919 and for the three years before the war. They propose also an inquiry into the control exercised over export prices by the German Government and into the restrictions on exports and imports. If this inquiry is at all faithfully pursued they are likely in certain trades to disclose an extraordinary and highly complicated system of Government control. The methods of the paper trade alone will give economists plenty of food for thought.

A further step is to be made in the interests of revenue by an inquiry into the present total number of State employees compared with 1913, especially distinguishing those employed on the posts and railways, whose demands are responsible for an increase of from 18,000 to 20,000 millions of marks (£ 72,000,000 to £80,000,000) in this year's German Budget. It is with a sense of equal treatment all round that they ask also for details of the German estimates for the armies of occupation and commissions, distinguishing cash payments from services in kind. These costs figure as the greater part of the German extraordinary Budget of over 40,000 millions (£160,600,000), and it is thought desirable to know on what the items are based. They are certainly overestimated, but it would perhaps not be a bad thing to make a parallel inquiry among the Allied administrations of the armies and of the commissions. The basis on which these exist—of spending what they like on account of Germany as payee—would not suggest the probability of excessive economy. If the anticipation should prove correct the indemnity scheme should soon begin to assume its final form.

BRITISH EXPORT CREDIT INSURANCE.

It is generally agreed that the TER MEULEN scheme for granting credits to distressed countries was the one important proposal which emerged from the Brussels Conference. Trade must be got going again between the countries which require raw materials and other goods, but have not the present means of payment, and the countries which are able to supply the goods, but cannot wait indefinitely for payment nor risk an ultimate loss. The re-establishment of international trade is almost as essential to our own well-being as to that of the impoverished nations of Central Europe, for, as Mr. Llyod George said last week, "until you restore healthy conditions in Europe and in the world we shall have an appalling problem of unemployment in this country which will be beyond grappling with." The impossibility of carrying on indefinitely a one-sided trade has already been discovered by the United States, steps have just been taken by the formation of the Foreign Trade Financing Corporation, to pay immediately American producers and manufacturers who cannot afford to tie up the money required in producing their goods for a period of years. The object of the new American corporation is to do for foreign business what the Federal Reserve system does for domestic business, and, further, in the words of one of the committee, " to demonstrate to the American people the fundamental soundness of foreign investment and its need.' The American idea is that credit expansion in time of stress is rightly designed to give sound business time to pay their debts, and to this extent it is in accord with the TER MEULEN scheme. But while the American corporation, with its huge capital of 100,000,000 dollars, which will enable it to create 1,000,000,000 dollars of credit, will pay its manufacturers and producers at once, this is not the case under the Dutch banker's plan. In order that impoverished nations may be able to obtain the funds needed to finance essential imports, a Commission appointed by the League of Nations is to decide on the gold value of the assets which the nations are prepared to pledge, and then the participating Governments will be authorised to create bonds to this value and loan them to their nationals for use by them as collateral security. But beyond the moral obligation involved in approving the amount of and the asset behind such bonds, the League of Nations has no further responsibility, and is not liable for the payment of the bonds at due date. It is with a view to increasing the security of our exporter, facilitating the resumption of international trade, and generally greasing the wheels of commerce that a credit insurance system is being considered. In this scheme insurance companies, the banks, and the Government would participate for it will obviously be to the advantage of all if satisfactory arrangements can be made. Insurance companies want to do business, banks are interested in the sale of goods on which they have made loans, and for the Government it is important that there should be as little unemployment as possible, for which trade activity is a condition precedent. If the risks are fairly spread between the three parties there should be no insuperable difficulty in arriving at a basis acceptable to all concerned, and, in view of the benefits which such a scheme would confer both on the distressed countries and on Great Britain, it is to be hoped that it will become an actuality, and provide the necessary complement to the League of Nations.—(*Daily Telegraph*).

THE QUESTION OF EXCHANGE.

Mr. S. R. Bomanji speaking on the exchange resolution at the Nagpur Congress, said when the Currency Committee reported sterling exchange ranged round one shilling seven pence and the Committee recommended that the sale of Reverse Councils be resorted to only when the balance of tarde was against India but in the beginning of this year when the balance of trade was in favour of India the Government by notification began the sale of Reverse Councils thus raising the exchange rate to 2 shilling eleven pence. This involved India in an enormous loss. In fact the inauguration of this currency policy was the cleverest piece of currency manipulation that had ever been known, and was the worst chapter of British rule in this contry. This wrong had been going on since the days of the East India Company, when the Government imposed a tax of one hundred per cent. on the importation of Indian cotton goods in England. Then there was the well known story of the fingers of the weavers of Dacca being cut off, so that by disabling them the weaving profession might be handed down from father to son but that was now past history. At the end of the war India was one of the creditors of the British like so many other countries like Canada and Australia. Britain paid Canada and Australia their debts, but they did not pay India. In order to wipe out the debt they by a very clever manipulation appointed a Currency Committee, which served in the same way as a Public Service Commission or Industrial Commission had done and as the Railway Commission would do. This Commission recommended the raising of sterling exchange to 2 shilling a rupee. The British Government could by one stroke of the pen pay only seven and half rupees for fifteen rupees. By this means a debt of fifty-five millons sterling had been cleared by the British Government. India had thereby lost twenty-five millons sterling on this one transaction alone. Mr. Dalal's Minority report stated certain apprehensions if the Majority report was followed, and that was exactly what had happened. Now the reason why there were adverse balances of trade against India was directly due to the Government continuing to sell Reverse Council Bills. The Government of India know well that it would not be possible to maintain the 2 shilling rate and yet they continued their policy with the result that Mr. Dalal's prognostications in both ways later would be perfectly justified.

It was on account of this economic wrong done to this country that poor Indians were starving. They had been taught in history of loots during the Nadir Shah's *regime* but what about the British Government orginised loot and legalised plunder.

WELFARE SCHEMES FOR WORKMEN

Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd. have kindly sanctioned for the Mills under their agency in Bombay and Kurla, some of the proposals submitted by the Tata Sons Workmen's Institute of the Social Service League for their consideration and in consequence of it maternity allowance to women workers in the form of two months' wages (one month before and one month after confinement) will be paid, a Sick Benefit Fund on a contributory basis, for the purpose of affording relief to members during their illness, will be started and in cases of accidental injuries to workmen resulting in death the minimum amount of the compensation which is paid to the heir will be Rs. 300 and the concession and facilities which have hitherto been given to workmen in non-fatal accidents will be continued as before. The maximum amount of compensation in cases of fatal accidents is fixed at Rs. 1,000 and the amount will be determined regard being had to the deceased's salary, length of service, etc. These schemes are to take effect from 1st January 1921.

Also by way of experiment a Savings Bank will be shortly opened at the Swadeshi Mills, Kurla, to encourage thrift among the employees of the Mill and will be conducted by the Tata Sons Workmen's Institute. The proposed Savings Bank is intended to supplement the work which is being done through the Millhands' Cooperative Credit Societies started by the Institute at its Kurla Centre.

MERCHANTS AND EXCHANGE.

Mr. Roshan Lal writes to the " Tribune" :—

A meeting of some Lahore merchants was held a few days ago, and it was resolved, that no one should retire drafts until the Government fixed the rate of exchange at 2 shillings per Rupee. Owing to certain circumstances I could not attend the meeting; so, a deputation of some gentlemen came to me and asked me to agree to their resolution. I expressed my inability to do so on account of some private reasons; also, I explained to them I was against the resolution above mentioned. As the matter is of great public interest, I would request you to kindly allow the matter to be discussed in your columns.

Some time ago when the Currency Commission was appointed, Mr. Dalal was the only Indian appointed to it and the country owes him great debt for writing a lucid minority report. He proved that a rise in the rate of exchange was deterimental to the interest of India, because, it makes the foreign articles very cheap in comparison with Indian manufactured articles. For instance, when the exchange rate was very high, say about 2 shillings 10 pence, the foreign articles were cheap in comparison with Indian manufactured articles. In a way a wall of very high tariff was raised against Indian industries in the interest of English manufactures. So, it is in the interest of export trade as well as in the interest of Indian industries that the rate of exchange should be somewhere near 1/4 instead of 2/10. The Congress has always demanded fiscal autonomy and if it were granted the first thing that the Indian Natonalists will rightly do, will be to protect the industries by putting high duties on foreign articles. As the fall of exchange serves the same purpose, we should not be so selfish as to sacrifice the larger intrest of the country for the purpose of temporary gain.

The metting also passed a resolution of boycott against those merchants who have the honesty and good sense to meet their liabilities. On moral political and patriotic grounds it is our duty to meet our liability and to press the Government to keep the exchange rate somewhere near 1/4 in the interest of export trade and Indian industries and not to press for an exchange rate of 2 shillings in our own selfish interests.

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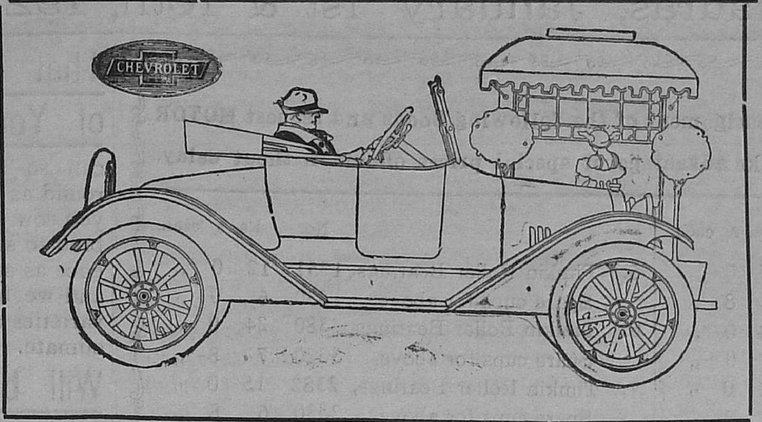

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WORLD MARKET

All communications in regard to the matter mentioned below must be addressed to the "Bureau of Commerce and Industries." Post Box No. 353, Madras, S. C. India, and the number appearing after each paragraph should be invariably quoted. The services of this Bureau are open only to the subscribers to this journal and to none else and no responsibility is undertaken for any information which is supplied by the Bureau on the understanding that it will not be supplied to other parties by the subscribers. When catalogues, samples &c. are forwarded for despatch abroad, in answer to enquiries, stamps sufficient to cover the cost of postage should be enclosed. It is worth while for Indian firms to open up communications with a view to further their trade interests.

Brick moulding machines. Foreign manufacturers who are interested in establishing business in India on an Agency basis should address the Bureau. No. 11.

Buttons. A good Indian firm manufacturing buttons is desirous of obtaining representatives in foreign countries on the usual commission terms. No. 12.

Cash Registers. Gentleman in India is interested in the above on an Agency basis. Firms who are interested should address the Bureau. No. 13.

Cement. Firm in Madras is interested in the above as Agents and solicits correspondence. No. 14.

Crushing Machinery. A firm is interested in the above as Agents in oil-seeds crushing machinery and is desirous of hearing from makers and exporters who can supply. No. 15.

Cutlery. Manufacturers who are desirous of establishing business in the above are requested to address. No. 16.

Disinfecting Fluids. A firm who is interested in the purchase of the above and is prepared to take up Agency will be pleased to hear from makers and firms who can supply at satisfactory prices. No. 17.

Electrical Requisites. Firm in India is interested in the importation of the above and desires to obtain quotations and prices for all kinds with a view of placing orders. No. 18.

Engineering Requisites. Firm in India is interested in the purchase of the above and will be glad to receive catalogues and prices. No. 19.

Hardware. A firm who is interested in the importation of the above desires to obtains quotations and prices for all kinds, with a view to placing orders. No. 20.

Honey. Firms desirous of buying the above are invited to correspond, quoting terms. No. 21.

Indian Firm. British manufacturers desirous of opening Agencies in Engineering, Electrical and Sanitary specialities will write at once. No. 22.

Import. An indenting firm in India desires Sole Agencies for different classes of goods. Good show rooms. No. 23.

Japanese Goods. A firm in India, with good references solicits correspondence from Japanese firms of manufacturers. No. 24.

Machinery. Firms who can supply machinery for making tinctures, liniments, pills and tablets are requested to communicate at once. No. 25.

Machine Tools. Firms interested in the above as Buyers and Agents will be glad to hear from Makers. No. 26.

Stationery. Firm in India in a wholesale business desires to hear from the manufacturers with a view to import. No: 27.

Spinning and Knitting. Firms in India interested in the importation of machinery for the above solicit correspondence from the manufacturers direct with quotations and terms. No. 28.

Paper. A firm well-established in India, desires to hear direct from the manufacturers of paper with samples and quotations. No. 29.

Pottery. Gentleman in India will be pleased to receive full details regarding the machinery for pottery direct from the manufacturers. No. 30.

Hand Machines. An Indian gentleman is desirous of buying hand machines (1) to press oil from mustard seeds, and (2) to make sugar from sugar-cane "Gur" or Jaggery—English machinery preferred. No. 31.